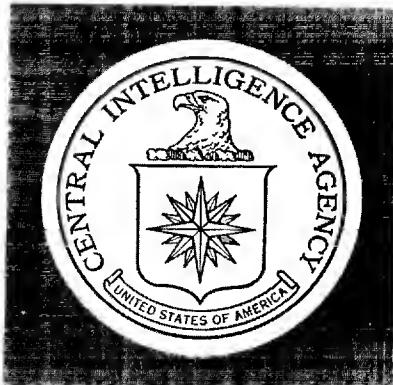


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Jordan-Israel: Jordan's call for a UN Security Council meeting on Jerusalem could open the way for a broader discussion of Israeli occupation policies.

The Jordanians are incensed over Israel's preparations for an Independence Day celebration in Jerusalem on 2 May. The Israelis have made extensive plans for a parade, which will pass through Arab sections of the city, and plan to display Arab equipment seized last June. As planned, the parade will include 200 tanks and armored cars and a 250-plane flyover.

The Jordanians not only intend to emphasize the provocative nature of the parade but also will call attention to earlier Israeli moves to establish Israeli sovereignty over the Old City. Although Israel has thus far held back from formal annexation, Israeli spokesmen have indicated that the status of the city is essentially not negotiable.

Jordanian officials have stated that while they are grateful for public expressions of US support, something more tangible would be appreciated in this case.

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Targets of Planned Terrorist Raids



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Laos: There are reports that the Communists may be planning a coordinated terrorist campaign against major towns in the near future.

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[redacted] Pathet Lao elements will launch simultaneous harassing raids against the provincial capitals of Luang Prabang, Saravane, and Thakhek [redacted]

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[redacted] Lao authorities are taking precautions.

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It is possible that these reports have been generated by the Communists to play on the jangled nerves of the Lao leadership. Similar rumors of a widespread offensive to celebrate the Laotian New Year two weeks ago did not materialize.

The Communists almost certainly have the capability to conduct such raids at a time of their own choosing. Furthermore, there has been an increase in Pathet Lao terrorism this year. Although thus far confined almost exclusively to the countryside, such terrorism has also been increasingly aimed against the US presence in Laos. Over the past week, for example, the Pathet Lao have destroyed the quarters of US attachés in Muong Soui and of AID officials in Ban Lahanam, although there were no US casualties in either incident. [redacted] (Map)

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Cambodia: Prince Sihanouk has publicly accused the Communists of fomenting the tribal rebellion in the northeast.

In a special address to the nation on 22 April, Sihanouk claimed that there is considerable "evidence" of Pathet Lao and Vietnamese Communist presence among the tribal dissidents and that a number of Communist agents have been captured by Cambodian authorities there.

Sihanouk painted a bleak and reasonably accurate picture of the deteriorating security situation in Ratanakiri Province. He stated that recent attacks on government outposts and harassment of government patrols had been ordered by the Communists in an effort to extend their control over the province. He also indicated that the security problem will worsen in the coming months as the rainy season hinders overland supply to isolated outposts.

Sihanouk may be exaggerating the threat in the northeast somewhat for his own purposes, but he has long considered the area as a prime target of Vietnamese expansionism, and he doubtless views recent events there as confirmation of his worst fears.

He proposed that Cambodian civilian officials be mobilized and sent to Ratanakiri to help meet the security threat. This is a clear expression of the difficulty the 32,000-man Cambodian Army is having meeting security threats in widespread areas of the country. It also points up the inability of Phnom Penh to increase the size of its security forces in the face of severe budgetary problems.

USSR: The harsh anti-Chinese editorial in this week's Kommunist may mean that Moscow intends to press this line at the Budapest meeting.

The basic themes of the editorial in the party theoretical journal, as indicated by a lengthy TASS summary, are that the Maoists have broken with Marxism-Leninism, that the deviate course of China is caused by extreme nationalism, and that the very existence of Communism in China is in jeopardy.

The article for the most part contains charges levied before by Soviet media, although pulling them together in Kommunist does raise the pitch a few decibels. The editorial is certainly also meant for East European ears, as it stresses the pitfalls of extreme nationalism--a theme that has been recurring more and more in Soviet speeches and press. Such articles, however, have little chance of influencing trends under way in Eastern Europe.

In publishing the editorial at this time, Moscow serves notice that it has no intention of soft-pedaling its views on events in China as the world Communist conference preparatory meeting begins in Budapest. Soviet stress on the international implications of events in China indicate that Moscow may be prepared to make more of an issue of Chinese behavior at a world conference late this year than was foreshadowed at the consultative meeting in February and March of this year.

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Nigeria: Federal leader Gowon is moving to counteract rising African pressures for an early cease-fire with secessionist Biafra.

Gowon is scheduled to fly to Accra today to discuss with Ghanaian leader Ankrah and visiting Congolese President Mobutu "ways to end the Nigerian civil war." Mobutu, who is also president of the Organization of African Unity, flew to Ghana earlier this week to try to reactivate the OAU's long dormant committee on the Nigerian problem. Gowon might also stop off in Liberia to confer with President Tubman.

In the wake of Tanzania's recent recognition of Biafra, several African leaders, including Mobutu and the presidents of Zambia, Ivory Coast, and Senegal, have shown increased impatience with what they regard as Gowon's intransigence. They are anxious to get the fighting stopped and talks started without preconditions.

Gowon maintains that a cease-fire can only follow an agreement by the secessionists to abandon their proclaimed sovereignty and accept their place in the Nigerian federation as restructured by Lagos. In an effort to appear more flexible and to forestall additional recognitions of Biafra, Gowon recently publicized his willingness to engage in exploratory talks with the Biafrans. His foreign minister arrived in London earlier this week, apparently to make contact with various intermediaries.

Prospects for talks of any kind, however, remain extremely dim. Ojukwu's latest public statement re-emphasized his view that a cease-fire is a prerequisite to talks and raised other potentially complicating conditions. Gowon for his part is unlikely to halt the fighting before taking certain key objectives, particularly Port Harcourt, the entry point for Biafra's air-delivered military supplies.

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Panama : The Robles government, with the support of the National Guard, is taking steps to enlist extreme leftist support for presidential candidate David Samudio.

The National Guard is planning to assist all National Assembly candidates running on the Samudio slate.

The government had earlier won over rabble-rousing pro-Castro journalist Thelma King. She had been working for a newspaper controlled by the opposition, but is now fully committed to Samudio and is writing for a lurid, progovernment tabloid recently established to promote Samudio's candidacy. The Samudio camp is also backing the campaign of Moises "Monchi" Torrijos, an anti-US editorial writer sympathetic to the extreme leftists.

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NOTES

Communist China - Japan: China will settle trade accounts with Japan in French francs instead of pound sterling this year, [redacted]

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[redacted] Japanese firms in the China trade suffered losses with the devaluation of sterling last November, and early this year a delegation visited Peking to discuss the role of sterling in future trade. Agreement was reached to substitute French francs and to settle accounts in other currencies for all trade except Japanese fertilizer exports to China if fluctuations in the franc appear to warrant it. Last year, Japanese trade with China reached about \$560 million. [redacted]

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Congo (Kinshasa) - USSR: The imminent arrival of Soviet diplomats in Kinshasa will mark the first time in almost five years that the two countries have had diplomatic relations. Twice before the Soviets have been expelled for meddling in Congolese affairs. President Mobutu was involved both times. The Soviets are aware of the Mobutu government's suspicion of the USSR and are likely to be circumspect in their initial dealings with the Congoleses. [redacted]

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USSR-India: India is the first non-Communist country to get delivery of a Soviet F-class submarine. An F-class left the Baltic on 18 April, escorted by an Indian naval ship. At least three of these long-range diesel-powered submarines are known to have been ordered under a Soviet-Indian arms agreement of October 1965. [redacted]

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